

Nancy Jodaitis
Director of Higher Education
Immigrants Rising
October 4, 2023

[5:00 pm] Dr. Pam Luster (@DrPamLuster)

Welcome back to #EquityChat sponsored by @CollegeFutures w/your hosts @lamkeithcurry @DrTammeil & @DrPamLuster. We're excited to have @NJodaitis, Dir. of Higher Ed @immigrantsrise, today to chat about their AB 540 FAQ & supporting #undocumentedstudents. Welcome Nancy!

[Nancy Jodaitis @NJodaitis·15s](#)

Replying to [@equityavengers @iliana_per76691](#) and [@immigrantsrise](#)

So excited to join [#EquityAvengers](#) in your [#EquityChat](#)! Such powerful & inspirational leaders -not only within the CCCs, but within the higher education nationally! Also want to give a HUGE shout out to [@JDuncanAndrade](#) & [@ebensimon](#) who first taught me about educational equity

[Dr Pamela Luster #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @DrPamLuster·1m](#)

Wonderful foundational leaders! [#EquityChat](#)

[5:05 pm] Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson (@DrTammeil)

Q1 @NJodaitis As you engage in equity-focused work, what is your walk-up song or anthem? @DrPamLuster @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[Nancy Jodaitis @NJodaitis·1m](#)

This Land Is Your Land by [@LasCafeteras](#) bc it's a reimagining of the original song. We need to build a future so this land really does belong to ALL. Justice, not Just US! Immigration Reform! End Systemic Racism! Education as a Human Right!

<http://bit.ly/thisland-cafeteras...> [#equitychat](#)

[5:11 pm] Dr. Keith Curry (@lamkeithcurry)

Q2 @NJodaitis. @immigrantsrise released the Championing Equity: Systemwide AB 540 FAQ in May '23. Tell us more about this resource and the intersegmental workgroup that came together to create it. @DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[Nancy Jodaitis @NJodaitis·59s](#)

1/3 AB 540 opened opportunities for 1000s of undocumented & other students since 2001. Yet, too many eligible students are unable to benefit. So [@immigrantsrise](#) convened leaders & practitioners at [@CalCommColleges](#), [@calstate](#), [@UofCalifornia](#) to build systemic solutions [#equitychat](#)

2/3 [@Shout](#) out to [@williamperezphd](#), co-chair of this groundbreaking intersegmental work! We also want to elevate and recognize the undocumented students, educators, administrators, policy advocates & college access leaders who made this equity work possible! [#equitychat](#).

3/3 Championing Equity: Systemwide AB 540 FAQ increases alignment of this powerful tuition equity policy between systems & individual campuses. Our goal is that students go to ANY public college or university in California & get the same answers/access to AB 540! [#equitychat](#)

[5:18 pm] Dr. Luster ([@DrPamLuster](#))

Q3 [@NJodaitis](#) How do you recommend practitioners best utilize the AB 540 FAQ to inform their work and what impact have you seen on process streamlining btw CCCs, CSUs, UCs since its release? [@DrTammeil](#) [@Iamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [#EquityChat](#) [#EquityAvengers](#)

[Nancy Jodaitis @NJodaitis·28s](#)

1/3 Download <http://bit.ly/ab540-faq> and bookmark on your computer! Use it to find answers to important Qs! It's user-friendly! Use our <http://bit.ly/ab540-faq-toolkit...> to elevate awareness, get sample emails & increase access! Share it with key departments and ALL your feeder schools!

2/3 Attend a regional training to do a deeper dive into the AB 540 FAQ! Register at <http://bit.ly/ab540-faqtrainings...> Shout out to [@SDMesaCollege](#) for hosting one tomorrow 10/5, [@UCRiverside](#) on 11/1 and [@CalStateLA](#) on 11/2 Join the movement for equitable implementation! [#equitychat](#)

[Nancy Jodaitis @NJodaitis·47s](#)

3/3 Even seasoned advocates learned something from the FAQ! Everyone's very excited for a central location to advise students with confidence! Admissions, Financial Aid & DRCs use it in trainings! Very helpful for high school, adult school & noncredit programs too! [#equitychat](#)

[Nancy Jodaitis @NJodaitis](#)

Actually 4 of 4 We're actively working with [@CalState](#) Board of Trustees to formally endorse the AB 540 FAQ. CSU Chancellors' Office was involved in the development of the entire FAQ, but at last moment decided it was not necessary. Yet, CSU students still struggle with AB 540.

[5:25 pm] Dr. Gilkerson ([@DrTammeil](#))

Q4 [@NJodaitis](#) In light of the most recent ruling against DACA, what are the next steps [#higher](#)ed leaders should take to ensure support for students with current [#DACA](#) status and those who would be eligible? [@DrPamLuster](#) [@Iamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [#EquityChat](#) [#EquityAvengers](#)

[Nancy Jodaitis @NJodaitis·1m](#)

1/4 Ensure that current & potential students know DACA is not required to attend college, be AB 540 eligible, or receive state financial aid in CA. Same for the majority of states that offer in-state tuition. Elevate state & federal protections for students. [#equitychat](#)

[Nancy Jodaitis @NJodaitis·52s](#)

2/4 DACA has been an incredible opportunity for those who have it. But the majority of students attending higher ed today have NEVER had access to DACA. [#highered](#) leaders need to use their collective power to build institutional and systemic solutions to scale [#equitychat](#)

[Nancy Jodaitis @NJodaitis·35s](#)

3/3 Examples include: Join & organize with the [@PresImmAlliance](#). Proactively reassure current & prospective students with actions, not just words. Expand paid professional dev opportunities such as fellowships and entrepreneurship. <http://bit.ly/beyond-daca> [#equitychat](#)

[Nancy Jodaitis @NJodaitis·32s](#)

4/4 Support the invaluable work of DACA recipients already working on their campuses! Expand awareness of & support to undocumented educators/staff. Use guide for concrete ideas: <http://bit.ly/ue-resource>! Create action plan w/allies & undocueducators should DACA end [#equitychat](#)

[5:32 pm] Dr. Curry (@Iamkeithcurry)

Q5 @NJodaitis From your experience, what are the top of mind priorities to achieve racial justice for undocumented and mixed-status students, and how could an intersegmental workgroup address them? @DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[Nancy Jodaitis @NJodaitis·1m](#)

1/4 Recognize & elevate connections between immigrant rights & racial justice! Close to 90% of undocumented students are Latinx, API, or Black & face many of the same challenges in our communities & schools. Build stronger bridges to challenge white supremacy! [#equitychat](#)

[Nancy Jodaitis @NJodaitis·1m](#)

2/4 Highlight that immigration is NOT just a Latinx issue! WE all must work harder to ensure Asian, Pacific Islander, and Black undocumented students have equitable access to ALL services and resources. Too many students are LEFT out. We need to do better. [#equitychat](#)

[Nancy Jodaitis @NJodaitis·1m](#)

3/3 Use these guides created by undocumented Black and Asian Pacific Islander educators and students for more clear strategies: bit.<https://bit.ly/blackundocustudents-resource...> &

[Nancy Jodaitis @NJodaitis·54s](#)

4/4 @CalCommColleges have a VITAL role to play bc they serve the majority of undocumented students and black and brown students. [@calstate](#) and [@UofCalifornia](#) must work with ALL feeder schools to ensure better pathways for racial equity in higher ed [#equitychat](#)

[5:39 pm] Dr. Luster (@DrPamLuster)

Q6 @NJodaitis To do this work, we must continue learning and partnering with others. How do you educate yourself and who is informing your practice? @DrTammeil @IamKeithCurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[Nancy Jodaitis @NJodaitis·2m](#)

1/4 Honored to work with & learn from an amazing & talented team at [@immigrantsrise](#). Also, share invaluable connections with powerful immigrant community that's part of IR family. As well as undocumented students, educators, entrepreneurs & families we support! [#equitychat](#)

[Nancy Jodaitis @NJodaitis·1m](#)

2/4 Learning to use data to tell even more powerful stories after taking "Data for Immigrant Justice at [@UCLA](#) with Professor [@iliana_per76691](#) Also, working collaboratively w/[@castudentaid](#) to highlight equity gaps in financial aid to undocumented students in California [#equitychat](#)

[Nancy Jodaitis @NJodaitis·1m](#)

3/4 Staying connected to and deeply listening to individuals from lived experiences. Uplifting diverse stories to shatter stereotypes. Building more collaborative work.

[Nancy Jodaitis @NJodaitis·21s](#)

4/4 Reading constantly. Engaging with white communities to address white privilege. Taking clear and concrete steps to check my privilege as a white woman with citizenship in the US. Being sure to step back as much or MORE than I step up.

[5:46pm] Dr. Gilkerson (@DrTammeil)

Q7 @NJodaitis We all have a vision of the future we want to live in. What is your freedom dream for higher education and what gives you hope for its future? @DrPamLuster @IamKeithCurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[Nancy Jodaitis @NJodaitis·3s](#)

When education becomes a RIGHT, not a PRIVILEGE. Clear pathways for all who want to enter higher ed & postsecondary programs. Real investment in higher ed to ensure ever-increasing tuition prices do not prevent brilliant minds from getting the education they deserve

[Nancy Jodaitis @NJodaitis·15m](#)

An end to the school-to-prison pipeline. Equitable access to support all students not just enter a college or university -- but feel they belong, study what they love, and graduate with honors - not debt. [#equitychat](#)

[5:53 pm] Dr. Curry (@lamkeithcurry)

Q8 @NJodaitis The road to racial equity is long. How are you sustaining yourself? What practice would you recommend to other #EquityAvengers? @DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[Nancy Jodaitis @NJodaitis·6m](#)

1/3 Strong partnerships and coalitions so we build on each other's strengths and not recreate the wheel! I get energy from learning about & elevating promising practices that others have developed to increase access and success in higher education!

[Nancy Jodaitis @NJodaitis·4m](#)

2/3 Standing on the shoulders of others who have done the work before me: clear and inspirational heroes such as Ella Baker, Fred Hampton, Berta Caceres, Tam Tran & Cynthia Felix to name a few.... As well as all the incredible young people I work with today!

[Nancy Jodaitis @NJodaitis·3m](#)

3/3 Finding an outlet that brings me joy. I swim in the ocean to feed my soul and strengthen my body! I also am part of a powerful community that swims to raise scholarship dollars for undocumented students at [@SFSUDRC](#)

[6:00 pm] Dr. Luster (@DrPamLuster)

TY [@NJodaitis](#) for your work & sharing resources to support [#undocumentedstudents](#). Join us next week as we chat with guests [@DrInezOlive](#) [@KyleJeanWinslow](#) [@OsureLBrown](#) on [#STEM](#) [@HSIs](#) [#EquityChat](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [@DrPamLuster](#) [@equityavengers](#) OUT!